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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, whose inward fellowship means cleansing, forgiveness, peace, and power, dissolve the barriers that keep our lawmakers from You. Take away the barrier of self-sufficiency that tempts them to live independent of Your will. Remove the obstacle of spiritual blindness that makes them unaware of invisible and eternal resources. Take them over the hurdle of compromise that prompts them to deviate from integrity and to forget that You are the only constituent they must please. Give them the grace of receptive hearts and humble dependence on You. Lord, continue to fill this Senate Chamber with Your presence, empowering Senators to listen to Your voice before they speak and then to speak with the echo of Your wisdom.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. LINCOLN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President—Madam President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes, the majority will control the next 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3268, the Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act.

We have a number of issues we wish to talk about for a short time this morning. First, this gas crisis is really a crisis. If someone in Las Vegas, for example, becomes concerned, as many people are, about how much it costs to drive to work every day, there are things that can be done. Maybe they can carpool, maybe there is public transportation. At least there are some alternatives. If you live in rural Nevada, the problem becomes a little more difficult, because you have to drive such long distances. But there are ways that extra travel can be avoided. If you are a mother or father, taking children to soccer games or bas-

ketball games, there is a way you can avoid that by going with your neighbor, by working out arrangements so more than one family goes in a car.

But if you are a senior citizen on a fixed income, and you see winter approaching, there are no alternatives. The alternatives are very bleak. If you cannot afford the fuel in your tank or heating oil in the Northeast, it is very difficult. You are subject to freezing and getting sick. That is why we have to do something with LIHEAP.

I have had Democrats and I have had Republicans come to me: When are you going to do something on LIHEAP? So I have a couple of unanimous consents I am going ask on LIHEAP.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUESTS— S. 3186

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 835, S. 3186, a bill to provide for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. CORNYN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 835, S. 3186, a bill to provide for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, and that when the bill is considered, only six germane first-degree amendments be in order to the bill, three amendments from each side, and that they be subject to second-degree amendments that are germane to the first-degree to which offered; that upon the disposition of all amendments, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate then vote on passage of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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